



**MEDICARE-MEDICAID COORDINATION OFFICE**

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**DATE:** July 24, 2015

**TO:** Medicare-Medicaid Plans in New York

**FROM:** Sharon Donovan  
Director, Program Alignment Group

**SUBJECT:** New York MMPs: Release of Final Contract Year 2016 Marketing Guidance for Medicare-Medicaid Plans

Attached to this memorandum is the final Contract Year (CY) 2016 marketing guidance for Medicare-Medicaid Plans (MMPs) operating in the New York Capitated Financial Alignment Demonstration. This guidance has been jointly updated by CMS and New York as summarized below and will be applicable to all marketing done for CY 2016 benefits.

We remind MMPs that this guidance document provides information only about those sections of the MMG that are not applicable or that are modified for MMPs in New York; therefore, this guidance document should be considered an addendum to the CY 2016 MMG. MMPs should carefully review the recently released CY 2016 MMG (see <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/ManagedCareMarketing/Downloads/2016-Medicare-Marketing-Guidelines-Updated.pdf>), in conjunction with this guidance document, as the requirements of the MMG that are not otherwise modified by this document apply to MMPs in New York.

Following is a summary of the changes to the CY 2016 marketing guidance for New York MMPs:

- General updates and streamlining:
  - Edits to section numbers, titles, and references, consistent with changes to the CY 2016 MMG.
  - Updates of lists of model marketing materials and links.
  - Streamlining of the language throughout the document to ensure greater consistency across state guidance documents.
- **Section 10 (Introduction):** Establishes a deadline of August 31, 2015 for submission of a CY 2016 annual marketing plan to the State.

- **Section 30.5 (Requirements Pertaining to Non-English Speaking Populations):** Addition of: (1) the notice alerting enrollees how to access or receive the Provider and Pharmacy Directory; and (2) Integrated Coverage Determination Notice to the list of required documents for translation. The first document was added to the list for consistency with the updates to section 60.4 of the CY 2016 MMG, and the second set of document was added for consistency with the provisions of the three-way contract.
- **Section 30.5 (Requirements Pertaining to Non-English Speaking Populations), Section 30.7 (Required Materials for New and Renewing Enrollees at Time of Enrollment and Thereafter), Section 60.4 (Directories), and Section 60.7 (Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) and Evidence of Coverage (EOC) (Member Handbook)):** Updates to include in requirements the notice alerting enrollees how to access or receive the Provider and Pharmacy Directory, consistent with the changes to the CY 2016 MMG. This addition is consistent with changes to section 60.4 of the MMG and of the MMP guidance.
- **Section 30.7 (Required Materials for New and Renewing Enrollees at Time of Enrollment and Thereafter):** Clarifies that the dates included in this section are the dates by which enrollees should receive applicable materials, not the dates by which MMPs should send those materials.
- **Section 30.7 (Required Materials for New and Renewing Enrollees at Time of Enrollment and Thereafter) and Section 60.7 (Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) and Evidence of Coverage (EOC) (Member Handbook)):** Clarifies that additional informational materials related to benefits or plan operations may be included in these required mailings to new and current enrollees – both at the time of enrollment and annually thereafter – consistent with the requirements of section 60.3 of the MMG.
- **Section 50.1 (Federal and State Contracting Disclaimer):** Clarifies that, in addition to the exceptions noted in the introduction to section 50 of the MMG, radio and television ads do not need to include the Federal and State contracting disclaimer, consistent with the changes to section 50.1 of the CY 2016 MMG.
- **Section 50.2 (Disclaimers When Benefits Are Mentioned):** Modifies one of the required benefits disclaimers consistent with changes to the CY 2016 MMG.
- **Section 50.15 (Pharmacy/Provider Directory and Formulary Disclaimers):** Adds a new required disclaimer for inclusion in materials whenever the formulary (List of Covered Drugs) or provider and pharmacy networks are mentioned, consistent with changes to the CY 2016 MMG.
- **Section 60.4 (Directories):**
  - Clarifies that certain portions of 60.4 of the MMG are now applicable to MMPs given the new flexibilities afforded to all plan types in the CY 2016 MMG to send a notice alerting the enrollees how to access or receive the Provider and Pharmacy

Directory rather than a hard copy of the complete directory. This flexibility was previously provided only to MMPs. Section 60.4 of the MMG contains the detailed requirements regarding this separate notice, and we clarify that these requirements regarding the separate notice apply to New York MMPs. Changes to the three-way contracts for New York MMPs will be made to reflect this change via the contract amendment process for CY 2016.

- Clarifies that, as provided in section 60.4 of the MMG, MMPs may print separate directories for PCPs and specialists provided both directories are available to enrollees upon request.
  - Clarifies that MMPs may also provide radial directories to members upon request provided that a hard copy of the entire directory is also available upon request.
- **Section 60.6 (Part D Explanation of Benefits): Clarifies that** FIDA Plans are required to meet the Part D Explanation of Benefits (EOB) requirements in section 60.6 of the MMG. We clarify, however, that FIDA Plans must meet this requirement by using the FIDA-specific Drug-Only EOB model provided by CMS and the State.
- **Section 60.7 (Annual Notice of Change (ANOC) and Evidence of Coverage (EOC) (Member Handbook)) and Introduction:**
  - Consistent with the changes to section 60.7 of the MMG, clarifies the actual mail date requirements.
  - Clarifies that MMPs must use an errata notice to notify enrollees of any errors in their original mailings and that MMPs should work with their Contract Management Team on developing an errata notice when errors are identified. Also clarifies that while the errata model at <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/ManagedCareMarketing/MarketngModelsStandardDocumentsandEducationMaterial.html> may be helpful to MMPs in creating their own errata notices, the terminology in that notice is not specific to MMPs (for example, references to the Evidence of Coverage should also include the MMP Member Handbook) and must be modified accordingly.
- **Section 70.1 (Promotional Activities):** Clarifies that promotional items may be offered to all potential FIDA Participants.
- **Section 70.1.1 (Nominal Gifts):** Clarifies that nominal gifts may be offered to all potential FIDA Participants.
- **Section 70.8 (Prospective Enrollee Educational Events):** Adds a requirement that MMPs inform CMS and the State of educational events via HPMS, consistent with the guidance for marketing events in section 70.9.1 of the MMG.

- **Section 80.1 (Customer Service Call Center Requirements):** Clarifies the requirements of this section consistent with changes to this section in the CY 2016 MMG. Adds a requirement that MMPs must use customer service representatives, rather than alternate technologies, on New Year's Day.
- **Section 100 (Plan/Part D Sponsor Websites and Social/Electronic Media):** Realigns the content of some of the subsections in Section 100 with changes to section 100 and its subsections in the CY 2016 MMG. However, except as detailed below, the revised MMP marketing guidance makes no substantive changes to the previous MMP requirements.
- **Section 100.1 (General Website Requirements):** Clarifies that, in addition to the other documents required to be posted to plan websites by September 30, MMPs must also post the Summary of Benefits for the upcoming contract year to their website by September 30.

The attached guidance will also be posted to the Financial Alignment Initiative website at <http://cms.gov/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination/Medicare-and-Medicaid-Coordination/Medicare-Medicaid-Coordination-Office/FinancialAlignmentInitiative/InformationandGuidanceforPlans.html>.

For any questions about the contents of this memorandum, please contact your Contract Management Team, or the Medicare-Medicaid Coordination Office at [mmcocapsmodel@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:mmcocapsmodel@cms.hhs.gov).